

**To:** Hopkins, Tracy[Hopkins.Tracy@epa.gov]  
**From:** Vranka, Joe  
**Sent:** Fri 12/15/2017 6:23:20 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: EPA Attends Butte-Silver Bow Council of Commissioners Meeting December 13, 2017

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Vranka, Joe" <vranka.joe@epa.gov>  
**Date:** December 14, 2017 at 9:24:33 AM MST  
**To:** "Murray, Bill" <Murray.Bill@epa.gov>, "Stavnes, Sandra" <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>, "Smidinger, Betsy" <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>, "Mutter, Andrew" <mutter.andrew@epa.gov>, "Faulk, Libby" <Faulk.Libby@epa.gov>, "Davis, Patrick" <davis.patrick@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** "Moler, Robert" <Moler.Robert@epa.gov>, "Greene, Nikia" <Greene.Nikia@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** EPA Attends Butte-Silver Bow Council of Commissioners Meeting December 13, 2017

Hi, Everyone:

Last night, Nikia Greene and I attended the Butte-Silver Bow City-County Council of Commissioners meeting in Butte, Montana, in response to a request from the county.

A reporter for the Montana Standard (Susan Dunlap) was present at the meeting. Our purpose was to provide some information on the West Side Soils Operable Unit (OU13). The event is included on the 30-day event planner (OCPI). Nikia had prepared three maps with a compilation of soils and attic dust data from 1987 through 2017 for areas outside of the Butte Priority Soils Operable Unit (OU8). We spoke from those maps to demonstrate the rationale for delineating areas of higher and lower priority and ultimately the operable units. We also explained that we have scheduled/planned a remedial investigation start for this summer (by June 2018). We responded to questions about timing by indicating that a remedial investigation and feasibility study would likely take approximately two to three years, followed by a record of decision, with cleanup beginning after that. We stated that cleanup could begin in four to five years, but that we have the ability to take expedited cleanup action at any time if conditions arise that warrant such action. The basic premise for designating West Side Soils as a lower priority was that it is outside of the city where there are few if any residences, use is agricultural and recreational, and wastes are located far from streams and waterways.

Following the presentation, Nikia and I responded to questions from the commissioners ranging from timing and community engagement to questions about negotiations at Butte Priority Soils, the Montana Pole site, the Milltown Reservoir site, resources, the Administrator's list of sites targeted for immediate attention, and more. We used talking points previously developed for Butte Priority Soils to answer questions about the negotiations and the Regional Administrator's commitment to reach agreement with negotiating parties by January 26 or proceed unilaterally if agreement is not reached. We discussed the efforts made over the years and more recently to engage the community and address environmental justice concerns, but acknowledged that we are always looking for ways to improve our outreach. We stressed that the Butte (and Anaconda) site has the attention of the Administrator and the Regional Administrator, and that they will be looking for ways to help us achieve real progress on cleanup for the community.

The commissioners thanked us for our presentation and the meeting ended at about 10:30 p.m. Please let me know if you have any questions or if you require additional information.

Thank you,

Joe